AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for breaking a machine component having a bearing eye into two bearing shells along a breaking plane, each bearing shell comprising one half of the bearing eye, the breaking plane crossing a pair of legs of the bearing eye, the method comprising the steps of:

   a) positioning the machine component onto a two-piece split mandrel comprising ~~having~~ a first displaceable mandrel half and a second fixed mandrel half, the first mandrel half having an inclined surface opposite ~~and second mandrel halves~~a vertical surface of the second mandrel half;

   b) subjecting the bearing eye to an initial stress in a breaking direction by ~~forcing~~ forcibly displacing the first ~~and~~ mandrel half relative to the second mandrel ~~halves apart~~half, said breaking direction defined by the direction of movement of one bearing shell relative to the other bearing shell;

   c) fixing the position of the bearing eye, relative to ~~one~~ the first mandrel half on one side of the breaking plane by means of adjustable stops, while on the other side of the breaking plane the bearing eye is not positionally fixed but is held with play relative to the ~~other~~ second mandrel half in a longitudinal direction of a shank of the machine component; and

   d) driving a wedge which has an inclined surface and a vertical surface between the two mandrel halves so that the vertical surface of the wedge is guided by the vertical surface of the second fixed mandrel half and the inclined surface of the wedge slides on the inclined surface of the first mandrel half slides in a sliding action ~~and~~, the sliding action forcibly displacing the first mandrel half relative to the second fixed mandrel half and breaking the bearing eye along the ~~bearing~~ breaking plane into the first and second bearing shells so that the one bearing shell associated with ~~the fixed position of the one~~first mandrel half is simultaneously split across a pair of legs from the other bearing shell associated with the ~~other~~ second mandrel half and is moved away from the other bearing shell along the

breaking direction relative to the sliding action of the inclined surfaces of the wedge and the first mandrel half.

2. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein during the breaking of the bearing eye, the mandrel half associated with the positionally fixed bearing shell is moved away from the other mandrel half that is fixed to a frame.

3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein during manufacture of the machine component, the breaking resistance of the bearing eye is weakened on its inside along the breaking plane.

4.-11. (cancelled)